

# DAILY BULLETIN

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## UNITED NATIONS STILL A VITAL INSTITUTION, STATE'S HOLMES SAYS

But it suffers from unwillingness to solve hard problems, he says

In spite of significant problems that have been reported in the news recently, the United Nations is still a vital organization for U.S. foreign policy, a senior State Department official says.

Kim Holmes, assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, told the Baltimore Council on Foreign Affairs December 6, "I can assure you, dealing as I do with the U.N. every day, that President Bush believes the U.N. is still a vital institution. It is an important tool of U.S. foreign policy."

Nevertheless, Holmes said, there are many who question the relevance and utility of the United Nations. He cited three points that he asked his listeners to remember:

-- The United States pays 22 percent of the U.N. budget and 27 percent of its peacekeeping budget to make it an effective multilateral instrument. "[I]f we did not have international mechanisms like the U.N. to help us implement global responses to terrorism, nuclear proliferation, failed states, HIV/AIDS, or famine, we would spearhead efforts to create them," Holmes said.

-- As with every large organization facing new challenges, Holmes said, the United Nations must figure out how to adapt.

-- The United Nations is not a counterweight to the United States, the most significant U.N. member. "The United Nations cannot be effective without the leadership of the United States. ... The United Nations gains its legitimacy from its members. It is not an end in and of itself. It is a means to an end," Holmes said.

Holmes said that the United Nations' reputation suffers now because so many of its members are not democracies and "do not believe in and practice the U.N.'s universal principles of human rights." Because there are many such states, he said, they have much influence in the organization. Holmes called on democratic states to be the conscience of the United Nations, standing up for democratic principles and not making excuses for undemocratic states.

Holmes then turned to a discussion of ideas to make the United Nations more effective. He cited several recommendations of the recently released report on U.N. reforms, including those on the U.N. Secretariat, terrorism and peacekeeping. Holmes said he disagreed, though, with proposals that he said would put restraints on individual members' right to self-defense.

For Holmes, the United Nations' chief problem is perhaps not a matter of a lack of resources or inadequate representation but, rather, "a lack of political will on the part of its members to solve hard problems."

He said the United Nations also has a "democracy deficit. By that I mean the U.N. doesn't do enough to promote democratic self-governance. I also mean that democracies have too little influence in the United Nations." He cited with approval the U.S. initiative to create a democracy caucus, beginning this past spring at the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, and said the United States also plans to urge such a caucus in the U.N. General Assembly.

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## NEW BACKGROUNDER, POWELL STATEMENT AVAILABLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

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IIP offers resources for December 10 Observance

In preparation for Human Rights Day on December 10, the Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP) has published a new backgrounder on the origins of Human Rights Day and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

IIP also has published Secretary of State Colin Powell's statement in honor of Human Rights Day. Powell addresses U.S. commitment to human rights and ongoing efforts to promote human rights and democracy in South Asia and the Middle East.

In addition, IIP will publish an interview with Assistant Secretary Michael Kozak from the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor on human rights and U.S. policy on December 9. On Human Rights Day itself, IIP will cover the anticipated White House proclamation.

The backgrounder is available at:  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2004/Dec/07-736194.html>

Secretary Powell's statement is available at:  
<http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/Archive/2004/Dec/08-152580.html>

All Human Rights Day coverage and additional human rights resources are at:  
[http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human\\_rights.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human_rights.html)

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## POWELL URGES EUROPE TO WORK WITH U.S. TO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY

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Secretary of state addresses German Marshall Fund

Secretary of State Colin Powell appealed to Europe December 8 to work together with the United States in pursuit of a free, peaceful and democratic Middle East and in support of democratic change wherever it takes place.

“What President Bush calls the ‘transformational power of liberty’ has been and will be the central element, the central push of U.S. policy for years to come,” said Powell in a speech at the German Marshall Fund’s Transatlantic Center in Brussels, Belgium.

“We need to have the courage to seek fundamental change and not be satisfied with just managing or containing threats,” he said. Powell urged that democratic change in the broader Middle East be the top priority of transatlantic institutions, including NATO and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Powell acknowledged past differences about Iraq but said, “We’re reaching out to Europe, and we hope Europe will reach out to us.”

Although Powell said the United States is “looking forward” to future cooperation with Europe, five countries -- Germany, France, Belgium, Spain and Luxembourg -- have refused to allow their officers under NATO command to take part in the mission NATO is now setting up in Iraq to train Iraqi security forces.

The transatlantic partnership has “increasingly gone global,” the secretary said. “More than ever before, we need to mobilize our resources and place our partnership at the world’s service.”

He said the United States and Europe, including Russia, are now focused on how to fight 21st century dangers such as terrorism; the trafficking in weapons, narcotics and people; and transnational crime.

Powell spoke of new roles for the OSCE and NATO in a post-9/11 world, saying “we’re taking the transatlantic partnership on the road -- beyond Europe.”

He cited the OSCE’s recent monitoring of the elections in Afghanistan as a vital success and called for the OSCE to expand its work in the broader Middle East still further by monitoring Palestinian and Iraqi elections in January 2005.

“NATO has also shown its great capacity for outreach,” Powell said, noting that the new NATO Response Force “is already proving its worth in Afghanistan. 9,000 NATO personnel make up the International Security Assistance Force, which is commanded by a French general.”

The secretary said he would be in Morocco December 10 for the Forum for the Future “to work with our partners

in the G-8 and in NATO to advance our common agenda of the broader Middle East and North Africa.”

“Every country has its own path forward based on its history, based on its current political situation, based on its culture,” he said. “We can help them.”

The post-election situation in Ukraine also figured prominently in Powell’s address. He said the United States supports a second run-off presidential election on December 26 as “the best way to restore confidence and the integrity of Ukraine’s political institutions.” The secretary of state concluded by calling for a renewed U.S.-European partnership based on shared principles and values. President Bush and his administration “will be doing everything they can to show to Europe our commitment to this partnership,” he said.

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#### TRADE NEGOTIATING POWER LIKELY TO BE EXTENDED, USTR SAYS

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Zoellick also looks ahead to probable 2005 vote on staying in WTO

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick predicts that Congress will allow a two-year extension of President Bush’s trade negotiating authority to go forward, giving more time to conclude World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations as well as bilateral and regional negotiations.

In December 7 remarks in Paris, Zoellick also mentioned the likelihood of a 2005 vote in Congress on whether the United States should remain a member of the WTO, but he offered no prediction on that issue.

The law granting the president trade promotion authority (TPA), otherwise known as fast track, is set to expire mid-2005 but can be extended two years upon the president’s request unless either the House of Representatives or Senate votes against extension.

Under TPA, Congress restricts itself only to approve or reject a negotiated trade agreement, within strict time limits and without amendments. In the next session of Congress, the Republican leadership of the House and

Senate could effectively block a vote from occurring to reject extension.

“He gets the authority for another two years unless either house of Congress blocks it, OK?” Zoellick said. “That will be, no doubt, a challenge, but one that I believe that we will succeed in.”

On the other hand, a WTO membership vote has what is called a privileged position -- once every five years, if any member of the House or Senate wants the vote to occur, then the leaders must schedule it. Zoellick recalled that such a vote, conducted in the House in 2000, attracted little support.

On the ongoing WTO negotiations, formally called the Doha Development Agenda, Zoellick said he has been consulting with major participating countries to sustain in 2005 the momentum that has been achieved in 2004.

“I think the goal would be to try to get this done in a 2005-2006 timeframe,” he said, “but a lot of things have to come together to make that successful.”

On another issue, Zoellick sidestepped direct answers to questions about U.S. exchange rate policy, but he did say that the United States and the European Union (EU), which both have free-floating exchange rates, have a mutual interest in persuading countries that have a fixed rate, such as China, to move toward a flexible system.

Zoellick also commented on the U.S. dispute with the EU over Airbus subsidies and about his scheduled trip to West Africa, which began December 8.

## U.S. HAS THREE-PRONGED CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY, ENVOY SAYS

Climate change negotiator briefs at Buenos Aires meeting

The United States is pursuing a three-pronged climate change strategy to address this environmental issue, which is the focus of attention at a major international meeting under way in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

This U.S. effort is equal to those of any other nation to deal with climate change, said Harlan Watson, senior climate negotiator for the U.S. State Department, speaking at a press briefing on the sidelines of the conference of the parties to the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

“We believe we match or exceed what any other country in the world is doing to address” climate change and the need to control greenhouse gas emissions, Watson said.

The first prong in the U.S. strategy is to reduce carbon intensity -- that is, the amount of carbon emissions generated per dollar of economic output -- and consequently to reduce emissions.

“Second, we are making substantial investments in science and technology and institutions designed to address both climate change in the near term and in the long term,” Watson said to the international press. The senior official, who is also the alternate head of the U.S. delegation to the meeting, said the United States is spending about \$5 billion annually on science and technology projects, including solar and renewable energy technologies, and advanced, still-developing technologies such as nuclear fission and fusion.

The United States has established partnership arrangements with other nations in pursuit of those technological breakthroughs -- the third element of the U.S. strategy.

“We have well over 200 projects with our partners addressing climate change science, clean energy technologies, earth observations, and so forth,” said Watson. The United States and partners are working to develop a new generation of nuclear reactors, new methods for the capture and storage of fossil fuel emissions, and the technologies and support structure to move society toward a hydrogen-energy-based economy.

The looming implementation of the Kyoto Protocol is the main agenda item at the conference. The protocol, an amendment to the UNFCCC, was negotiated in December 1997 and is due to enter into force on February 16, 2005.

The United States is not a party to that agreement, which calls for compulsory reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. Watson said the United States might not be in accord on the Kyoto agreement, but it has taken actions to reduce emissions and control climate change. "Much more focus ought to be put on the action," he said.

#### PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY TO RECEIVE \$20 MILLION IN U.S. AID

White House says it wants to help Palestinians hold elections

By Stephen Kaufman  
Washington File White House Correspondent

Washington -- The Bush administration is providing \$20 million in direct budgetary support to the Palestinian Authority (PA) to help the Palestinian leadership address some of its financial issues as it seeks to hold presidential elections January 9, 2005, and put institutions in place, said White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan.

"[W]e want to do everything we can to help the Palestinian people as they move forward on holding elections, and this contribution of financial assistance hopefully will send a signal to other nations as well that they should help the Palestinian people," McClellan said at the December 8 White House briefing.

Earlier in the day, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and North African Affairs William Burns announced the \$20 million support and said the United States would also continue to provide a "substantial" overall assistance package to the Palestinians, which totaled about \$200 million in 2004, and would be giving \$3.5 million for technical assistance and international observers for the upcoming election.

President Bush issued a December 8 memorandum to Secretary of State Colin Powell authorizing a waiver of U.S. restrictions on providing funds to the Palestinian

Authority, thereby allowing the PA to receive the \$20 million in direct budgetary support.

Press Secretary McClellan said the funds for the PA will finance utility services. The PA is in "a serious financial situation right now," McClellan said, and the financial assistance sends a message that "we want to help as they move forward on elections and as they move forward on putting institutions in place for a viable state to emerge."

At the State Department press briefing, deputy spokesman Adam Ereli described the aid as "a meaningful gesture of support for the Palestinians" and said it was only the second time direct U.S. aid to the PA has been allowed.

According to press reports, Palestinian Finance Minister Salam Fayyad will oversee the \$20 million. McClellan said the Bush administration has "great confidence" in Fayyad, who McClellan said has put a fully transparent system in place.

"[W]e have great confidence in the ability that those funds will go where they're supposed to be going," McClellan said.

The press secretary also said the United States is pleased that the Palestinians and Israel have reached an agreement over the framework and logistics for holding the January 9, 2005, elections, describing it as "a positive and constructive step forward."

According to press reports, the elections will be held using the same procedures as the Palestinian elections of 1996, which will include allowing Palestinian residents in East Jerusalem to vote.